

§ 17.143

of business. Claims shall be filed on ATF Form 2635 (5620.8), Claim—Alcohol and Tobacco Taxes.

(b) *Manufacturers who are also proprietors of distilled spirits plants.* If a manufacturer of nonbeverage products is owned and operated by the same business entity that owns and operates a distilled spirits plant, the manufacturer's claim for drawback may be filed for credit on Form 2635 (5620.8). After the claim is approved, the distilled spirits plant may use the claim as an adjustment decreasing the taxes due in Schedule B of ATF Form 5000.24, Excise Tax Return. Adjustments resulting from an approved drawback claim are not subject to interest. This procedure may be utilized only if the manufacturer of nonbeverage products and the distilled spirits plant have the same employer identification number.

[T.D. ATF-179, 61 FR 31412, June 20, 1996, as amended by T.D. ATF-436, 66 FR 5471, Jan. 19, 2001]

§ 17.143 Notice for monthly claims.

If the manufacturer has notified the appropriate ATF officer, in writing, of an intention to file claims on a monthly basis instead of a quarterly basis, and has filed a bond in compliance with the provisions of this part, claims may be filed monthly instead of quarterly. The election to file monthly claims shall not preclude a manufacturer from filing a single claim covering an entire quarter, or a single claim covering just two months of a quarter, or two claims (one of them covering one month and the other covering two months). An election for the filing of monthly claims may be withdrawn by the manufacturer by filing a notice to that effect, in writing, with the appropriate ATF officer.

§ 17.144 Bond for monthly claims.

Each person intending to file claims for drawback on a monthly basis shall file an executed bond on ATF Form 5154.3, conforming to the provisions of subpart E of this part. A monthly drawback claim shall not be allowed until bond coverage in a sufficient amount has been approved by the regional director (compliance). When the limit of liability under a bond given in less than the maximum amount has

27 CFR Ch. I (4-1-03 Edition)

been reached, further drawback on monthly claims may be suspended until a strengthening or superseding bond in a sufficient amount is furnished.

§ 17.145 Date of filing claim.

Quarterly claims for drawback shall be filed within six months after the quarter in which the distilled spirits covered by the claim were used in the manufacture of nonbeverage products. Monthly claims for drawback may be filed at any time after the end of the month in which the distilled spirits covered by the claim were used in the manufacture of nonbeverage products, but shall be filed not later than the close of the sixth month succeeding the quarter in which the spirits were used.

§ 17.146 Information to be shown by the claim.

The claim shall set forth the following:

- (a) Whether the special tax has been paid.
- (b) That the distilled spirits on which drawback is claimed were fully taxpaid or tax-determined at the effective tax rate applicable to the distilled spirits.
- (c) That the distilled spirits on which the drawback is claimed were used in the manufacture of nonbeverage products.
- (d) Whether the nonbeverage products were manufactured in compliance with quantitative formulas approved under subpart F of this part. (If not, attach explanation.)
- (e) That the data submitted in support of the claim are correct.

§ 17.147 Supporting data.

(a) Each claim for drawback shall be accompanied by supporting data presented according to the format shown on ATF Form 5154.2, Supporting Data for Nonbeverage Drawback Claims (or according to any other suitable format which provides the same information). Modifications of Form 5154.2 may be used without prior authorization, if the modified format clearly shows all of the required information that is pertinent to the manufacturing operation. Under § 17.123, the appropriate ATF officer may require additional supporting

data when needed to determine the correctness of drawback claims.

(b) Separate data shall be shown for eligible distilled spirits taxpaid at different effective tax rates. This requirement applies to all eligible spirits, including eligible recovered alcohol and eligible spirits contained in intermediate products.

(c) Separate data shall be shown for imported rum, spirits from Puerto Rico containing at least 92% rum, and spirits from the U.S. Virgin Islands containing at least 92% rum. The total number of proof gallons of each such category used subject to drawback during the claim period shall also be shown, with separate totals for each effective tax rate. These amounts shall include eligible spirits and rum from intermediate products or recovered alcohol.

(d) Any gain in eligible distilled spirits reported in the supporting data shall be reflected by an equivalent deduction from the amount of drawback claimed. Gains shall not be offset by known losses.

§ 17.148 Allowance of claims.

(a) *General.* Except in the case of fraudulent noncompliance, no claim for drawback shall be denied for a failure to comply with either 26 U.S.C. 5131-5134 or the requirements of this part, if the claimant establishes that spirits on which the tax has been paid or determined were in fact used in the manufacture of medicines, medicinal preparations, food products, flavors, flavoring extracts, or perfume, which were unfit for beverage purposes.

(b) *Penalty.* Noncompliance with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. 5131-5134 or of this part subjects the claimant to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for each separate product, reflected in a claim for drawback, to which the noncompliance relates, or the amount claimed for that product, whichever is less, unless the claimant establishes that the noncompliance was due to reasonable cause. Late filing of a claim subjects the claimant to a civil penalty of \$1,000 or the amount of the claim, whichever is less, unless the claimant establishes that the lateness was due to reasonable cause.

(c) *Reasonable cause.* Reasonable cause exists where a claimant establishes it exercised ordinary business care and prudence, and still was unable to comply with the statutory and regulatory requirements. Ignorance of law or regulations, in and of itself, is not reasonable cause. Each case is individually evaluated.

(Sec. 452, Pub. L. 98-369, 98 Stat. 819 (26 U.S.C. 5134(c))

SPIRITS SUBJECT TO DRAWBACK

§ 17.151 Use of distilled spirits.

Distilled spirits are considered to have been used in the manufacture of a product under this part if the spirits are consumed in the manufacture, are incorporated into the product, or are determined by ATF to have been otherwise utilized as an essential part of the manufacturing process. However, spirits lost by causes such as spillage, leakage, breakage or theft, and spirits used for purposes such as rinsing or cleaning a system, are not considered to have been used in the manufacture of a product.

§ 17.152 Time of use of spirits.

(a) *General.* Distilled spirits shall be considered used in the manufacture of a product as soon as that product contains all the ingredients called for by its formula.

(b) *Spirits used in an ion exchange column.* Distilled spirits used in recharging an ion exchange column, the operation of which is essential to the production of a product, shall be considered to be used when the spirits are entered into the manufacturing system in accordance with the product's formula.

(c) *Products requiring additional processing or treatment.* Further manipulation of a product, such as aging or filtering, subsequent to the mixing together of all of its ingredients, shall not postpone the time when spirits are considered used, as determined under paragraph (a) of this section. This is true even if at the time of use there has not yet been a final determination of alcoholic content by assay. If, however, it is later found necessary to add more distilled spirits to standardize the product, such added spirits shall be